



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 31, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 26 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 15.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 4 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 66 billion ton-miles, 12.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 26 totaled 450,285 cars, 11.3 percent above 1979, and 1.5 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. The increase over last year was attributable primarily to sharp gains in coal and grain traffic. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.9 percent in the East, 5.7 percent in the South and 20.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 16 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 27,977 cars, or 36.9 percent, and grain traffic increased by 11,627 cars, or 54.9 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 19 totaled 34,309 cars, up 19.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 62,438 trailers and/or containers, 24.2 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 3 weeks of the year was 89,859 cars, 6.4 percent higher than last year, and 162,578 trailers and/or containers, up 11.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/26/80.

	Loadings in Week ended January 26, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,803	I	11,627	54.9	I	2,722	9.0
Other farm products	4,669	I	584	14.3	D	155	3.2
Metallic ores	23,664	D	108	0.5	I	1,402	6.3
Coal	103,796	I	27,977	36.9	I	1,453	1.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,903	I	91	0.7	D	523	3.9
Nonmetallic minerals	14,151	I	1,223	9.5	D	263	1.8
Grain mill products	19,325	I	1,741	9.9	I	243	1.3
Food and kindred products	19,721	I	1,372	7.5	I	571	3.0
Primary forest products	21,052	I	1,366	6.9	I	256	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,304	D	556	4.7	I	656	6.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,138	I	2,645	13.6	I	356	1.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,941	I	2,045	7.6	D	286	1.0
Petroleum products	6,809	D	639	8.6	D	349	4.9
Stone, clay and glass products	16,210	I	211	1.3	I	186	1.2
Coke	6,793	I	115	1.7	I	349	5.4
Metals and products	18,336	I	245	1.4	D	130	0.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,230	D	5,825	24.2	I	927	5.4
Waste and scrap materials	13,888	I	889	6.8	D	491	3.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,538	I	374	3.4	I	162	1.4
All other carloads	43,746	I	431	1.0	D	467	1.1
LCL traffic	268	D	161	37.5	I	33	14.0
Total Cars Loaded	450,285	I	45,647	11.3	I	6,652	1.5
Corresponding week of 1979	404,638						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (4 weeks)	1,700,844	1,563,841	I	8.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
3 weeks cumulative	48.3	43.6	I	10.8
Week ended January 26	17.4	15.1	I	15.4
4 weeks cumulative	65.7	58.7	I	12.0